

My dear *Confrere*, — Please let me have six boxes of photographic plates similar to the others. Can you lend me "Les Chouans," "Cesar Birotteau," "La Recherche de TABsolu," "Les Illusions perdues," by Ealzac. If not, please buy them — the edition at 1 fr. 25 c.

In addition to books, Zola was of course kept well supplied with newspapers, both French and English. Vizetelly procured him an English grammar for French students and other works, and with this help he picked up sufficient knowledge of the English language to understand the news telegraphed from Paris about the Dreyfus case. In all such news he naturally took the keenest interest. On August 31 Vizetelly received from Paris a telegram to be transmitted to him, — a telegram to this effect: "Be prepared for a great success." It greatly puzzled Zola when it reached him, for there was nothing in the newspapers he had seen to which it could refer. However, a score of possibilities in connection with the Dreyfus case immediately occurred to him, and he spoke of them in presence of Vizetelly's daughter, passing from one surmise to another and becoming quite feverish as his impatience to know the meaning of the mysterious "wire" increased. His young companion was undoubtedly upset by his strange excitement, which gained on her also, in such wise that she passed a very restless night, beset repeatedly by a dream in

which she
fancied herself in some strange, big, dark
place where a

bination of Hots and scratches. Sometimes he signed "Em.
Beauchainp," at
others "J. Beauchainp," and "B." Later, he ventured on
a "Z." Very
few of Ms notes of that time hear Ms name in full.
Moreover, for fear of
the Cabinet Koir (the *petit lieu* affair showed that one
existed), his letters
to Paris were usually addressed by Vizetelly to a person
who transmitted
them to those for whom they were intended.